/257/

484 823 As for the sharp sense of direction of the natives in the forest, or their topographic sense, which has been praised so much, it seems to be the fruit of poetic imagination, if it is generalized for the tribes of the Caiarí. They know very well the rivers and forests that they frequent; however, they do not risk going very far into the forest. They tell of various episodes in which they were lost in the forest. And, in order for this not to happen, they avail themselves of the expedient of breaking branches, all in the same direction, as they draw [171] away from the usual paths. The Makú live in the interior of the forests, are hunters, and therefore orient themselves better. It is to be pointed out, however, that they are seminomadic and always travel in groups.

b) Mathematics.

*192 • 802 The natives have different names for the first five numbers and distinguish the masculine, feminine, and neuter (thing), to wit:

Number	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
1	nikã, nikõ	nikõ	nikã
2	põãra, põana	põãra, põana	põã, põãro
3	i'tyãra, i'tyãna	i'tyãra, i'tyãna	i'tyã, I'tyãro
4	ba'pári-tĩra	ba'pári-tĩra	ba'pári-tise
(Uaupes)	bapári-tĩna	ba'pári-tĩna	
5	nikã-mũkõra	nikã-mũkõra	nikã-mũkõse
(Uaupés)	nikã-mũkõna	nikã-mũkõna	

It should be noted that Nikã-mũkõra, properly speaking, means one hand. And ordinarily they prefer to indicate the number of fingers (2, 3, etc.) rather than pronounce the numbers. From five on, all of them, practically, are content to show the corresponding number of fingers. The more intelligent ones know how to count up to twenty, using the fingers of the hands and the toes. They no longer know how to count numbers higher than twenty.

*192 804 Properly speaking they do not have measures of extension or length. They speak of sẽẽrõ (sẽẽnõ), nikáti sẽẽrõ, the breadth of the arm span or the two open arms, põãti sẽẽrõ, two arm-spans, etc.; a step, yeraró, nikáti yeraró, one step; a handspan, wamũ-ka keoró or wamũ-pama-keoró, níkã pama, one handspan, põã wamũ-ka-keoró, two handspans, ba'páritise wamũ-ka-peosé, four handspans.